

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
October 18, 2005

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Orthodontist Sentenced to 21 Months in Prison; Fined \$500,000 for Fraud and Obstructing a Federal Health Care Fraud Investigation

Springfield, Illinois -- Jan Paul Miller, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that Sergius A. Rinaldi, age 70, an orthodontist with offices in Springfield and Edwardsville, Illinois, was sentenced today to a term of 21 months in prison for submitting fraudulent bills to Medicaid and obstructing a federal health care fraud investigation. U.S. District Judge Richard Mills also ordered Rinaldi to pay a fine of \$500,000 and restitution in the amount of \$25,844. Judge Mills allowed Rinaldi to self-report to begin serving his prison term at a date and location to be determined by the federal Bureau of Prisons.

In March 2002, Rinaldi pled guilty to billing the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and Medicaid for services he did not perform. From 1994 through 2001, Rinaldi submitted claims to the Illinois Department of Public Aid (IDPA) through Delta Dental and Doral Dental, companies that administered the dental portion of Medicaid for IDPA, and also to IDPA through the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for services claimed to have been performed for children in the custody of or in the protection of DCFS.

Rinaldi also admitted that between January 23, and July 3, 2001, he removed records from his offices that were responsive to a federal subpoena, including on July 3, 2001, when he was seen removing records from his office in anticipation of a search by federal agents later that date.

(More)

In connection with the mail fraud offense, Rinaldi specifically admitted submitting a claim to the Illinois Department of Public Aid for a monthly adjustment of braces for a client on August 9, 2000, when in fact the client was not in the State of Illinois at the time.

The charges were the result of an investigation by the Central Illinois Health Care Fraud Task Force which includes agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Illinois State Police Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), United States Postal Inspection Service, the Illinois Attorney General's Office and the Illinois Department of Public Aid. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Patrick D. Hansen and Patrick J. Chesley prosecuted the case.

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